

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a nanoparticle suspension comprising the steps of:

providing a comminuting apparatus with a chamber;

dissolving an organic compound in a water miscible first solvent to create a first solution;

mixing said first solution with a second solvent to precipitate the organic compound to create a suspension of particles outside of said chamber of said comminuting apparatus;

introducing said suspension into a said chamber of a said comminuting apparatus;

moving said suspension through said chamber in a first fluid stream and in a first direction;

contacting said first fluid stream with an impacting surface; and
redirecting the first fluid stream to flow in a second fluid stream in a second direction that is substantially opposite to said first direction, to cause shearing between the streams and mixing of at least some of the particles from the first and second streams.

2. (Currently Amended) A method for modifying a particle suspension comprising the steps of:

moving a suspension of solid particles from a first entrance point in a first fluid stream; ~~and~~

moving fluid from a second entrance point in a second fluid stream said second entrance point being substantially oppositely disposed relative to said first entrance point; and

contacting at least one of said first and second streams with an obstruction disposed between said first and second entrance points to redirect at least one of said first and second streams such that said second fluid stream is oriented to cause shearing between the streams and mixing of at least some of the particles the first and second streams.

3. (Canceled)

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing a particle suspension comprising the steps of:

introducing an organic compound and solvent into a chamber of an apparatus;

mixing said compound with said solvent and forming a suspension of particles;

moving said suspension into a first fluid stream;

contacting said suspension with an impacting surface; and

redirecting the suspension to flow in a second fluid stream, in a direction that is substantially opposite to the first stream and so as to substantially avoid direct impingement of said streams and cause shearing between the streams and mixing of at least some of the particles from the first and second streams.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the step of mixing said compound with said solvent includes using the Venturi effect to combine the solution and the solvent into a single flow path.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for preparing a particle suspension comprising the steps of:

moving a solution including an organic compound dissolved in a water-miscible organic compound to form a first solution stream;

moving water in a second solution stream;

contacting at least one of said solution streams with an impingement surface having a first contacting surface shaped to redirect at least one of said first and second solution streams such that said streams substantially avoid direct impingement and such that the first solution stream is oriented and positioned in a direction that is substantially opposite to the direction of the second solution stream so as to cause shearing between the streams and mixing of the solution streams to produce the particle suspension.

8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 comprising contacting said first fluid stream with a semi-spherical impacting surface.
10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 comprising contacting said first fluid stream with a substantially flat surface.
11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 further comprising cooling said second stream.
12. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11 comprising cooling said second stream by adding water to said second stream.
13. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 12 comprising cooling said second stream when said second stream is no longer in contact with said first stream.
14. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 11 comprising cooling said second stream by mixing said second stream with a liquid.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 2 comprising contacting said first and second streams with a first impacting surface.
17. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 16 further comprising contacting at least one of said first and second streams with a second impacting surface to redirect at least one of said first and second streams.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5 comprising mixing a solution including an organic compound with a solvent and a surfactant to form said suspension.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 5 further comprising moving said second stream of a solution from a separate entrance point, said second stream comprising one or more of water and a surfactant.
20. (Previously Presented) The method Claim 7 wherein said second solution stream includes a surfactant.
21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 7 comprising moving said organic compound and water miscible organic compound solution from a first entrance point and moving said water from a second entrance point.
22. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 further comprising contacting at least one of said first and second streams with an obstruction having a first contacting surface and a second contacting surface.
23. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 22 further comprising contacting said first stream with said first contacting surface and contacting said second stream with said second contacting surface.
24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23 comprising contacting said second stream with said second contacting surface to redirect said second stream and avoid direct impingement of said first and second streams.
25. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 23 further comprising passing said first stream through a nozzle disposed between said first entrance point and said obstruction.
26. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 19 further comprising contacting at least one of said first or second fluid streams with an obstruction disposed between said first and second entrance points.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 20 comprising contacting at least one of said first and second streams with an obstruction that has first and second contacting surfaces.

28. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 21 comprising contacting said first stream with said first contacting surface and contacting said second stream with said second contacting surface.